



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

CN# 32-05

MEMORANDUM

To: School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

From: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health & Nutrition Services

Holly Mueller, Program Director
Arizona Department of Education, School Health & Nutrition Programs

Date: January 27, 2005

RE: The HealthierUS School Challenge

Obesity is a growing concern for school children in the United States. **The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the schools themselves to take a leadership role in educating students on healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices.** The USDA has launched "The HealthierUS School Challenge" to recognize schools that have already taken measures to improve their school health environment.

HealthierUS School Challenge certification requirements include:

- Must be an elementary school
- Must be enrolled as a Team Nutrition School
- Offer reimbursable lunches that demonstrate healthy menu planning practices and principles of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and meet USDA nutrition standards
- Provide nutrition education
- Provide students the opportunity for physical activity
- Maintain an Average Daily Participation (ADP) of 70% or higher of school enrollment for reimbursable lunches
- Adhere to guidelines established by USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) for foods served/sold in schools outside the NSLP

USDA has developed a “Self-Assessment Tool” which details the standards that must be met. The completed Self-Assessment must be evaluated by a local review panel and endorsed by the schools leadership, including the school’s principal. In addition, the completed Self-Assessment must be sent to the Arizona Department of Education, School Health and Nutrition Services. It will then be forwarded to USDA Food and Nutrition Services.

Certified schools will receive:

- A Recognition of Achievement Plaque
- Recognition on the USDA’s Team Nutrition website

Certified schools may also be selected for special USDA FNS media events. Additionally, schools may be eligible to receive other awards that promote and support the principles of the HealthierUS School Challenge.

For more information about HealthierUS School Challenge and to obtain a copy of the Self-Assessment Tool visit: www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.htm .

If you have questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your assigned School Health & Nutrition Program Specialist.

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